

241305Z Apr 00

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ACTION AF-00

INFO	LOG-00	NP-00	AGRE-00	AID-00	ACQ-00	CIAE-00	COME-00
	DINT-00	DODE-00	SRPP-00	DS-00	EB-00	FBIE-00	VC-01
	H-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-00	L-00	AC-01	NSAE-00
	OIC-02	OMB-01	OPIC-01	PA-00	PM-00	PRS-00	ACE-00
	P-00	SP-00	SSO-00	STR-00	TRSE-00	USIE-00	R-00
	PMB-00	DSCC-00	PRM-01	DRL-02	G-00	NFAT-00	SAS-00
	SWCI-00	/010W					

-----4F320E 241302Z /38

FM AMEMBASSY HARARE  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5831  
INFO SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY  
NSC WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 06 HARARE 002206

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 04/24/10  
TAGS: [PGOV](#) [CG](#) [PREL](#) [PHUM](#) [PINS](#) [CG](#) [ZI](#) [EAGR](#) [EAID](#)  
SUBJECT: SUBJECT: WOLPE/MUGABE TETE-A-TETE

DEPT FOR P U/S PICKERING, A/S SUSAN RICE  
USUN FOR AMBASSADOR RICHARD HOLBROOK  
NSC FOR GAYLE SMITH SENIOR DIRECTOR FOR AFRICA  
PARIS FOR BISA WILLIAMS  
LONDON FOR PFLAUMER

CLASSIFIED BY AMBASSADOR TOM MCDONALD, FOR REASONS 1.5  
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(B) AND (D).

REFS: A) HARARE 2205, B) HARARE 2202

11. (U) THIS MESSAGE CONTAINS AN ACTION REQUEST. SEE  
PARAGRAPHS FOUR AND TWENTY EIGHT.

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SUMMARY  
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12. (C) IN A FORTY FIVE MINUTE TETE-A-TETE ZIMBABWEAN  
PRESIDENT MUGABE AND I HAD A CORDIAL BUT FRANK EXCHANGE  
ON ZIMBABWE'S DOMESTIC POLITICAL CRISIS. I TOLD THE  
ZIMBABWEAN PRESIDENT, WHOM I HAVE KNOWN SINCE THE  
1970'S, THAT THERE WAS A GROWING AND WIDELY HELD  
PERCEPTION, EVEN AMONG HIS COUNTRY'S LONGEST AND  
STRONGEST SUPPORTERS, THAT THE ZIMBABWEAN GOVERNMENT HAD  
ABANDONED ITS COMMITMENT TO THE RULE OF LAW; WAS  
COMPLICIT IN RECENT ACTS OF LAWLESSNESS AND VIOLENCE;  
AND WAS CONTRIBUTING TO A CLIMATE OF INCREASED RACIAL  
POLARIZATION AND DANGEROUS POLITICAL TENSION. I TOLD  
MUGABE THAT RECENT EVENTS WERE THREATENING TO IMPERIL  
ZIMBABWE'S FUTURE AND HIS OWN PERSONAL LEGACY.

13. (C) THE ZIMBABWEAN PRESIDENT LISTENED CLOSELY AND  
APPEARED TO WELCOME THE OPPORTUNITY TO TALK THROUGH A  
NUMBER OF HIS IMMEDIATE PREOCCUPATIONS:

--HE WAS KEENLY AWARE OF THE IMMEDIATE DANGERS, HAD  
PUBLICLY CONDEMNED THE VIOLENCE THAT HAD OCCURRED, AND  
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WAS WORKING TO DEFUSE THE CRISIS.

--HIS GOVERNMENT HAD NOT ABANDONED THE RULE OF LAW, BUT  
FEARED THE CONSEQUENCES OF ANY POLICE OR ARMY EFFORT TO  
FORCIBLY REMOVE THE WAR VETERANS WHO HAD OCCUPIED THE  
COMMERCIAL FARMS.

--HE FELT THAT THE BRITISH HAD YET TO HOLD UP THEIR PART  
OF THE BARGAIN STRUCK AT LANCASTER HOUSE, AND HAD NO  
MORAL BASIS TO COMPLAIN NOW ABOUT ZIMBABWE'S INSISTENCE  
THAT LONG-DELAYED LAND REFORM BE IMPLEMENTED WITH OR  
WITHOUT COMPENSATION TO THE WHITE COMMERCIAL FARMERS.  
AFTER ALL, IT WAS THE AFRICANS WHO HAD ORIGINALLY BEEN  
FORCIBLY SEPARATED FROM THEIR TRADITIONAL LANDS BY THE  
WHITE SETTLERS.

--THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT APPEARED IMPLACABLY AND  
UNREASONABLY HOSTILE TO HIM AND HIS GOVERNMENT. AS FAR  
AS THE LAND ISSUE WAS CONCERNED, HE HAD BEEN  
PARTICULARLY DISAPPOINTED AT THE FAILURE OF THE NEW

LABOR GOVERNMENT TO FOLLOW THROUGH ON THE CONSTRUCTIVE RECOMMENDATIONS OF A COMMISSION APPOINTED BY CONSERVATIVE PRIME MINISTER JOHN MAJOR.

--WHILE HE STILL HOPED FOR A NEGOTIATED SOLUTION TO THE LAND QUESTION, HE WAS DETERMINED TO ADDRESS THIS HISTORICAL INJUSTICE ONCE AND FOR ALL.

--HE HAD YET TO HAVE A REAL MEETING OR EXCHANGE WITH PRIME MINISTER BLAIR AND, MORE GENERALLY, FELT SLIGHTED BY THE NEW LABOR GOVERNMENT.

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--A ZIMBABWEAN DELEGATION WAS TRAVELLING NEXT WEEK TO LONDON IN AN ATTEMPT TO ESTABLISH A MORE CONSTRUCTIVE DIALOGUE WITH THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT.

--MANY OF ZIMBABWE'S WHITE FARMERS HAD NEVER RECONCILED THEMSELVES TO A BLACK-LED ZIMBABWE. THERE WERE, HOWEVER, SOME NOTABLE EXCEPTIONS. UNFORTUNATELY, ONE PROGRESSIVE COMMERCIAL FARMERS UNION PRESIDENT HAD FAILED IN HIS EFFORTS TO PERSUADE HIS COLLEAGUES TO NEGOTIATE A BINDING SETTLEMENT THAT WOULD DEFINITIVELY RESOLVE THE LAND ISSUE.

--HE WELCOMED THE WILLINGNESS OF THE USG GOVERNMENT TO BE OF ASSISTANCE, BOTH IN DIRECT SUPPORT OF ZIMBABWE'S LAND REFORM PROGRAM AND IN OUR CONVERSATIONS WITH THE BRITISH.

14. (C) PARAGRAPH 28 BELOW CONTAINS AN ACTION REQUEST THAT, IN ADVANCE OF NEXT WEEK'S UK/GOZ MEETING IN LONDON, THIS REPORT OF MY MEETING WITH PRESIDENT MUGABE BE SHARED WITH THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT, AND THAT UNDERSECRETARY PICKERING SPEAK DIRECTLY TO FOREIGN MINISTER COOK. END SUMMARY.